

"What if I use protection—doesn't that make premarital sex responsible?"

To answer that question, you'd have to ask:

Does premarital sex carry any risks for self and others?

Yes.

What are those risks?

Pregnancy; more than 20 STDs; the possibility of future infertility due to an STD; and emotional consequences such as regret, guilt, lowered self-esteem, depression, and negative effects on marriage.

Are these serious risks?

Yes.

Do condoms eliminate these risks?

No. They provide less than complete protection against pregnancy (15% failure rate), HIV (15% failure rate); Chlamydia (a significant cause of female infertility) (50% failure rate); and human papilloma virus (HPV) (only "some risk reduction"). They provide no protection at all against emotional consequences.

Is it ever morally responsible to take serious, unnecessary risks with your own or someone else's health, life, and emotional welfare?

Clearly, it's not.